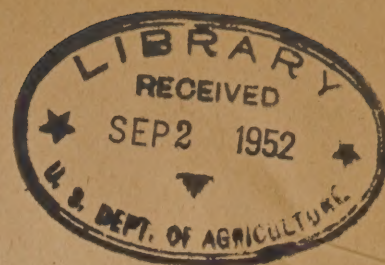


2 U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Electrification Administration  
May 23, 1952



3. COOPERATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES

I. Significant Dates in the Development of the American Cooperative Movement.

1752 First fire insurance mutual, with Benjamin Franklin as a charter member.  
1791-1840 Period of co-op workshops.  
1824-1848 Cooperative community movement.  
1845 First co-op store (Boston).  
1862-1866 Nation-wide co-op store movement.  
1868 National Grange starts promoting co-op stores and marketing co-ops.  
1875 Farmers Alliance sponsors co-op purchasing and marketing.  
1882-1887 Knights of Labor co-op stores.  
1900-1920 Development of telephone mutuals.  
1902 Farmers' Union sponsors co-op purchasing and marketing.  
1909 First Credit Union law (Massachusetts).  
1912 Farm Bureau sponsors co-op marketing.  
1921 First gasoline co-op (Minnesota).  
1929 First co-op hospital (Oklahoma).  
1934 Congress passes Federal Credit Union Act and creates Farm Credit Administration.  
1935 Creation of Rural Electrification Administration.  
1936 President's Inquiry on Cooperative Enterprises in Europe.

II. Status of American Co-ops in 1950.

| Type of Co-op                | Number | Membership* | Annual Business  |
|------------------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|
| Farm marketing               | 7,000  | 4,000,000   | \$ 7,000,000,000 |
| Farm supply purchasing       | 3,100  | 2,500,000   | 2,000,000,000    |
| Rural electric               | 950    | 3,000,000   | 225,000,000      |
| Telephone                    | 5,000  | 300,000     | 5,000,000        |
| Credit (credit unions)       | 10,580 | 4,609,000   | 995,960,000      |
| (production credit ass'ns)   | 500    | 450,000     | 900,000,000      |
| Irrigation                   | 4,400  | 148,000     |                  |
| Freezer locker               | 200    | 100,000     | 6,500,000        |
| Insurance (mutual and co-op) | 2,000  | 11,750,000  | 210,250,000      |
| Consumer purchasing          | 1,000  | 500,000     | 100,000,000      |
| Medical care                 | 90     | 160,000     | 13,000,000       |
| Burial                       | 40     | 35,000      | 586,000          |
| Housing                      | 50     | 30,000      |                  |
| Nursery school               | 150    | 0,000       | 425,000          |

\* Many families belong to more than one type of co-op.



